

office will characterize the discharge of his new duties as Minister of Finance.

The portfolio of Agriculture has been bestowed upon my hon. friend from Victoria City (Mr. Tolmie). This appointment, I am sure, is one which will have the approval of all the people of Canada as it certainly has the approval of the people of British Columbia. The hon. the Minister of Agriculture is a true farmer. He is a farmer not only in the theoretical sense, but he is an actual farmer. He not only performs manual labour upon his own farm but he has received an education along technical lines in agriculture. The hon. the minister's merits are of no mean character; he has attained to a position of eminence in the agricultural world particularly with regard to live stock. He has long been looked upon as one of the great authorities in North America and that recognition is of such a character that in the United States of America his opinions and decisions are continuously reported in the official bulletins.

The people of Canada will, I am sure, share the sorrow of the people of the sister Dominion of South Africa in the loss of that great empire statesman, Sir Louis Botha. Although formerly an enemy he gave his life to the promotion of those great ideals and principles upon which the British Empire is founded.

This, to my mind, is one of the most momentous and historical sessions of our Canadian Parliament, called as it primarily is to ratify the Treaty of Peace which has just been signed by the representatives of our Government who were delegates to the conference held for the purpose of formulating that treaty. It is a fitting epitome of the great work done by the right hon. the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), who has given his life and his talents to his country and whose name will go down to posterity with the names of other Canadian statesmen such as Sir John A. Macdonald, and the late lamented and much revered Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

It is momentous also from the fact that to-day His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, heir to the British Crown, is in our midst, and has performed the historic ceremony of laying the corner stone of the tower of the newly reconstructed Houses of Parliament. It is but right and proper that this should be so, as his grandfather, the late, revered King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, performed a similar ceremony when these buildings, the first

houses of Parliament of the new Confederation of Canada, were constructed. We welcome him here to-day even as the people of that day welcomed his ancestor. The ties which bind the hearts of the Canadian people to the Throne of Great Britain were never so strong as they are to-day. Though they be but ties of loving sentiment, fine as silk, yet they are stronger than the toughest bands of steel. His Royal Highness has all the lovable qualities of his grandfather which so endeared him to his people. The son of a great ancestor of his, then Prince of Wales, greatly loved by the English people of that day for his soldierly qualities, was called Edward, the Black Prince; our Prince, showing soldierly qualities in no less degree, is equally well beloved of his people as Edward the White Prince. His admiration for our soldiers while in France was shown by his presence for two months with them while in the field fighting for freedom. May his life long be spared to his fellow countrymen, and when the time comes that he be King, may he rule long and wisely.

That the Prince has the right ideal was, I think, shown by a statement which was made the other day by him. He said:

The splendid services of the British Dominions in the war have given them a new prestige among the peoples of the world, and they have established their status as self-governing nations once and for all.

In June 1535 a Norman Frenchman, an adventurous seaman named Jacques Cartier, sailed from the seaport of St. Malo, and gave Canada to the world. This has been well described by that brilliant and talented statesman, the late Thomas D'Arcy McGee in the following lines:

In the seaport of St. Malo, 'twas a smiling
morn in May,
When the Commodore, Jacques Cartier, to the
westward sailed away
In the crowded old cathedral all the town
were on their knees
For the safe return of kinsmen from the un-
discovered seas.

Some three hundred and seventy-nine years later when the vengeful Germans broke through Belgium into fair France the prayers of the people of France were answered. Canada saved France from destruction and helped save the civilization and liberty of the world from German aggression and tyranny. So long as the tongue of man is capable of utterance, so will the brave deeds of the Canadian Army Corps be spoken of in tones of admiration. Their deeds are imperishable and indelibly